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I strongly urge that the proposed conservation of the specific name of the polychaetous annelid *Polydora websteri* Hartman in Loosanoff & Engle, 1943 (SPIONIDAE) and designation of a lectotype for this species be supported.

The application by Radashevsky & Williams (BZN **55**: 212–216) is clearly presented and well argued. It requests conservation of the specific name *websteri* for the species seen and described by Hartman (1943), and not for the distinct species (*P. caeca* Webster, 1879) for which Hartman intended it to be a new replacement name (nomen novum) because of homonymy with the older *Leucodorum coecum* Örsted, 1843 (currently *Dipolydora coeca*).

As pointed out by Radashevsky & Williams, the species described by Hartman is well known and widely distributed, whereas the species seen and described by Webster (1879) has until recently not been recognized. The authors mention (paras. 6 and 10) only two known finds of the species since it was described: material of S.H. Hopkins from off Virginia (the type locality of *P. caeca*), and more recently live material from Rhode Island.

Hartman's original material of *Polydora websteri* is extant, and a proposed lectotype, in agreement with Hartman's description and also with that of others who have used the name, has been selected and redescribed by Radashevsky (1999).

Williams & Radashevsky (1999) have also provided a careful and detailed description of a new nominal species, *P. neocaeca* Williams & Radashevsky, 1999 based on material from Rhode Island, and very clearly indicated that their material fits the description of *P. caeca* from Virginia by Webster. This acknowledges that two taxonomic species are involved and promotes stability in maintaining the present usage and type locality of P. *websteri.*

The proposals made by Radashevsky and Williams in their application are well considered and I suggest that supporting their application will promote the greatest nomenclatural stability.

Comment on the proposed designation of *Cuma rathkii* Krøyer, 1841 as the type species of *Diastylis* Say, 1818 (Crustacea, Cumacea)

(Case 3078; see BZN **56**: 174–176)

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Dr Gerken's application is most welcome and actually long overdue. The unfortunate fact that *Diastylis* has a type species of doubtful identity has been known for a long time. It was mentioned by Zimmer (1940, pp. 1–2) and Day (1980, pp. 221, 264), while Băcescu (1992, pp. 274, 277) extensively discussed the matter and explained two possible solutions: (1) the fixation of a neotype for *Diastylis arenarius*, the type species of the genus, or (2) the fixation of a different type species. Day and Băcescu agreed that if the second course were followed the most suitable type species would be *Cuma rathkii* Krøyer, 1841, and we must be grateful to Dr Gerken for proposing that the Commission should designate this species. I wholeheartedly agree with her action, though I have a few remarks on minor points of detail.

In para. 1 Dr Gerken says that *Diastylis arenarius* was the only species included in the genus and is therefore the type species by monotypy. However, after describing *D. arenarius* Say (1818, p. 315) noted 'I think there is little doubt of this animal being congeneric with *Cancer scorpioides*, described by Montagu' and on p. 316 he continued '*Cancer esca* Gmel. ... will ... form a third species of this genus'. As mentioned in para. 3 of the application, Montagu's species is now placed in *Bodotria* and *Gammarus esca* Fabricius, 1779 is unidentifiable. The first fixation of a type species known to me was by Fowler (1912, p. 534) who cited *D. arenarius* in the belief that the genus was originally monotypic.

The 'type locality' mentioned in Dr Gerken's para. 5 actually consists of two widely separated localities: Hornbaek (Denmark) in the Kattegat and southern Greenland. As the type material in Copenhagen consists of several specimens from these two localities it would be advisable to select a lectotype for *Cuma rathkii* in case the existing syntypes are found to represent more than one taxon.

Additional reference

Fowler, H.W. 1912. The Crustacea of New Jersey. *Report of the State Museum of New Jersey*, **1911**: 29–650, pls. 1–150.

Comment on the proposed precedence of NYMPHULINAE Duponchel, [1845] over ACENTROPINAE Stephens, 1835 (Insecta, Lepidoptera)

(Case 3048; see BZN **56**: 31–33)

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In the past the crambid species concerned in this case were generally referred to as the NYMPHULINAE. The single species *Acentria ephemerella* [Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775 was placed in a separate subfamily on its own; *Acentria ephemerella* is a senior subjective synonym of both *Phryganea nivea* Olivier, 1791, the type species of *Acentria* Stephens, 1829, and of *Acentropus garnonsii* Curtis, 1834, the type species by original designation of *Acentropus* Curtis, 1834. The latter nominal genus is the basis of the subfamily ACENTROPINAE Stephens, 1835; under the provisions of the Code (Article 40.1 of the 1999 Edition) ACENTROPINAE is a potentially valid name even though *Acentropus* is invalid because it is a junior synonym of *Acentria*.

Acentria ephemerella was placed by one of us (Speidel, 1981) in the same subfamily as the species which were classified in the NYMPHULINAE; this resulted in the synonymisation of ACENTROPINAE Stephens, 1835 and NYMPHULINAE Duponchel,